

Nominations Sought for Recovery Science Review Panel to Advise Recovery Planning for Pacific Salmon and Steelhead

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers

SUMMARY: NOAA Fisheries is in the midst of formal recovery planning for Pacific salmon and steelhead listed as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). The scope of this recovery planning effort encompasses 26 listed populations or groups of populations (i.e., evolutionarily significant units) of Pacific salmon and steelhead in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California. NOAA Fisheries is currently soliciting nominations to the Recovery Science Review Panel to advise the technical and scientific aspects of the recovery planning process and ensure its consistency and scientific credibility.

BACKGROUND: The Recovery Science Review Panel was formed in 2000 to provide critical scientific advice to West Coast salmon recovery planning. The current panel is chaired by Dr. Robert Paine, emeritus professor at University of Washington, and includes 5 other internationally recognized scientists: Dr. Ted Case (University of California-San Diego), Dr. Francis James (Florida State University), Dr. Simon Levin (Princeton University), Dr. Russell Lande (University of California-San Diego) and Dr. William Murdoch (University of California-Santa Barbara). These distinguished panel members have served on the Recovery Science Review Panel for three years and some members may be rotating out to pursue other endeavors. To ensure continuity and the transfer of information, NOAA Fisheries is soliciting nominations for new panel members. In the past three years, the panel has provided recommendations on scientific approaches being developed by Technical Recovery Teams, which have been formed in each of the 8 recovery domains: (Puget Sound, Interior Columbia, Willamette/Lower Columbia, Oregon Coast, Southern California/Northern Oregon, North-Central California Coast, Central Valley, and Southern California Coast). Each Technical Recovery Team is responsible for establishing delisting criteria and recovery goals for listed salmon and steelhead within their domain, as well as for providing technical evaluation of alternative measures for achieving recovery. Information about the current panel and the recommendations they have made thus far can be found on the Northwest Fisheries Science Center's webpage (<http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/cbd/trt/#>).

PANEL FUNCTIONS: The Panel provides scientific advice to recovery teams and NOAA scientists. Its primary functions include:

1. Providing scientific support to Technical Recovery Teams, specifically:
 - a. Reviewing core principles and elements of recovery science;
 - b. Ensuring that well-accepted and consistent ecological and evolutionary principles form the basis for all recovery efforts;
 - c. Encouraging consistent application of core principles across populations, ESUs, and recovery domains;
2. Providing scientific support to scientists at the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers who work on Pacific salmon and steelhead;

3. Providing general advice for salmon science.

In addition, the panel may at times provide scientific advice to Southwest and Northwest Regional Administrators, senior NOAA Fisheries officials in the respective regions, on specific issues, and provide technical review of major scientific and science policy documents produced as a result of the salmon recovery process.

PANEL MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS: Panel members should

1. Be scientists of international reputation who have a distinguished record of scientific accomplishment in the fields of ecology, evolutionary biology, conservation biology, fisheries biology, or salmon biology;
2. Have held positions of scientific leadership during their career;
3. Have demonstrated fairness and cooperation during their career, and an ability to work effectively in a team setting; and
4. Meet standards established by the National Research Council for independence and conflict of interest.

DETAILS: Initial terms shall be 3 years in length. Before completion of the final year, and after considering workloads, other commitments, and future needs for recovery planning, members' terms will be reviewed and adjusted (as appropriate) to provide for a staggering of termination dates. We anticipate that fulfilling the responsibilities of the Panel will require a time commitment of approximately 3-4 days every 3-4 months. Panel members will be compensated for their time and expenses.

NOMINATIONS: NOAA Fisheries is seeking the most highly qualified individuals to serve on this Panel. We encourage submissions from all interested parties, including scientific societies, academic institutions, existing regional scientific panels, tribes, states, other salmon co-managers and stakeholders, environmental groups, and federal agencies.

Each submission should include the submitting person or organization's name and affiliation, a detailed Curriculum Vitae of the nominee, and supporting letter(s) describing how the nominee meets the qualifications 1-4 outlined above. Self-nominations are acceptable.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Nominations must be received on or before **July 15, 2003.**

ADDRESS: Nominations should be sent electronically or by mail to:

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